

REMARKS:

Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-38 have been canceled without *prejudice*.

Claims 39-74 have been added herewith.

Claims 1-38 are objected to because of certain informalities.

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, 16-18, 20, 21, 25, 28-30, 32, 33, 37, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,996,589 to Jayaram et al. (“*Jayaram*”).

Claims 10-12, 22-24, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Jayaram*.

Claims 7, 19, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Jayaram* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,996,589 to Jennyc et al. (“*Jennyc*”).

Claims 2, 14, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Jayaram* in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046301 to Shannon et al. (“*Shannon*”).

Claims 3, 15, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Jayaram* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,709 to Casagrande et al. (“*Casagrande*”).

Applicants respectfully submit that all of Applicants arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the cited prior art. Other distinctions may exist, and as such, Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a future Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. Applicants further respectfully submit that by not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements. The example distinctions discussed by Applicants are considered sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejections. In addition, Applicants reserve the right to pursue broader claims in this Application or through a continuation patent application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(a):

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, 16-18, 20, 21, 25, 28-30, 32, 33, 37, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over *Jayaram*.

Applicants respectfully submit that by canceling Claims 1-38 Applicants *rendered moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims and the Examiner's arguments in support of the rejection of these claims*. Applicants further respectfully submit that new Claims 39-74 contain unique and novel limitations that are not taught, suggested, or even hinted at in *Jayaram*. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 39-79 patentably distinguish over *Jayaram*.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Although Applicants believe no fees are deemed to be necessary; the undersigned hereby authorizes the Director to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 500777**. If an extension of time is necessary for allowing this Response to be timely filed, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to the extent necessary. Any fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time should be charged to **Deposit Account No. 500777**.

Please link this application to Customer No. 53184 so that its status may be checked via the PAIR System.

Respectfully submitted,

29 January 2009
Date

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